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Prices
at
Auctions.

IN a recent number of the *Monthly Journal*, Mr. C. J. Phillips has a short article upon the subject of stamp auctions in which some of the points are well taken. It is very evident that the article has a special reference to London auctions, and the facts set forth show a condition of affairs that must be most unsatisfactory to auction buyers and which, if allowed to continue, will be quite certain to have a bad effect on future auction sales. Several reasons are given for considering auction prices unreliable guides to value,—one is the "difficulty in getting to know what prices were those obtained by genuine sale and what were those made by the trade or other interested parties." It is asserted that, in the majority of sales, a large proportion of the stamps belong to dealers or speculators, and that stamps are often put into sales that they may be bid up and a fictitious value established for them. This practice would seem to be fostered by a system of charging "1s or 1s 6d per lot to cover expenses on any lot bought in." This would appear to give great opportunity for abuse and to be the prime cause of trouble. We think we manage this feature of auctions better in this country. It cannot, of course, be claimed that private arrangements are never made between an owner and the dealer through whom he disposes of his stamps by auction, but, so far as we are aware, our dealers exact their commission (usually 15 or 20 per cent. on the selling prices), whether a stamp has been actually sold or merely bought in. This is as it should be. The auctioneer's percentage, the expense of cataloguing, clerical work, etc. must be paid, and it is only fair that each lot should bear its due proportion. We think we may go further and assert that the majority of American firms who hold stamp auctions decline to receive protecting bids from the owners of the stamps. If speculators have to pay a heavy commission for the pleasure of booming the prices of their holdings, they will soon find the amusement too costly and will decide to let their stamps go at the prices which they will bring in an unforced market.

Another point made by Mr. Phillips is that quotations of auction prices are not reliable guides to value, because they give little or no information as to the condition of the specimens. Condition is now such an important factor that, in the course of a season, the same stamp may bring widely divergent prices. Under such circumstances, a price quoted without mention of the condition of the stamp may be extremely misleading. We may add one other observation, to the effect that attendant circumstances affect prices.

The sale of a large or well-known collection will attract attention and the prices, even for ordinary and second-rate stamps, are apt to be higher than they would be in a sale of less importance.

The spirit of emulation must sometimes be taken into account. We have seen two collectors compete for certain stamps at auction, and bid more than either would have been willing to pay for the same copies at private sale. On the whole, it would appear that quotations of auction prices should not be accepted as infallible, but should be taken with a liberal pinch of salt.



They do These Things at the Club.

"Boys," said the Chief Story Teller, "I read in the paper, the other day, an account of a postmaster in the mountains being devoured by a bear. It struck me that there was a singular appropriateness in the time of the occurrence. Guess the hour?"

— After a number of failures they gave it up.
"Why, eight P. M., of course."



The Stamps of Greece.

BY CRAWFORD CAPEN.

Continued from page 223.

We will begin our study of the separate issues, where all such studies must begin, with the stamps of the Paris print. There have never been any great difficulties in the selection and understanding of the stamps of this earliest of Greek prints. They were printed in Paris, from plates engraved by M. Barré who engraved and printed the first stamps of France. The design was, certainly, one of the finest that has ever been selected to appear upon the issues of any country. The first printings were beautifully done and, had the general finish and fine quality of the work been continued through the various issues, the series would have been regarded by collectors generally as one of the finest in existence. The transfer of the plates, however, to Athens and the subsequent use of poor paper, poor ink and, above all, the poor workmanship, resulted in a short time in the decay of that general elegance which characterized the Paris print.



Our illustration shows, in a general way, the appearance of the central portion of the Paris print of the stamps of Greece. This set consists of the 1 lepton, 2 lepta, 5 lepta, 10 lepta, 20 lepta, 40 lepta and 80 lepta. The fineness of the lines on-cheek and neck, their separation one from another, and the fact that they are pointed at each end and wider near the centre, is characteristic of every one of the Paris prints. The breaking up into dots is not characteristic of all stamps. This shows more frequently in the 1 lepton, 5 lepta, 20 lepta and 40 lepta than in the other values of the set, so far as our observation goes. These are the stamps which had the greatest use and, since it is observable that the 2 and 80 lepta, in the latest prints of them, show more of a breaking up than they do in the earliest, it is possible that this is the result of a greater use of the plates. This statement, however, is put forth merely as an interrogative since the differences noted may well be in the plates themselves and the breaking into fine dots an object sought by the

printers. There is one statement frequently made in relation to Paris prints which seems likely to lead many collectors into error. They are spoken of by numerous writers as printed on a "highly glazed" paper. The paper is certainly of a smoother and finer quality than was used for any other issues of Greek stamps but the use of the term "highly glazed" leads the ordinary collector to think of a surface similar to that which is found upon some of the issues of the Roman States, whereas, there are many cases in which the holding of one of these stamps on a slant to the light reveals no glaze whatever. We should prefer to call it a fine, smooth paper of first quality and finish.

We will take up the separate denominations of the issue of 1861 by themselves.

1 Lepton.—This stamp comes in various shades from a light to a dark brown. Black brown specimens which are sometimes seen canceled, are supposed to have been obliterated for purposes of deception. The color of the paper is of a light creamish, apparently about the same in color and quality for all the different printings. Our cut, being made from the central portion of one of these stamps, is a very good representation of its appearance.

2 Lepta.—This stamp comes in two distinct tints and in varying shades of these tints. The earliest is the bistre, ranging from dark to light. The differences in shade, however, may be such as would come from a greater or less quantity of ink. The paper is of a deeper coloring than that used for the 1 lepton and may be spoken of as yellowish. The lines on face and neck in these stamps are not broken up to the extent to which they appear to be broken in our cut, in the specimens that have come under our observation. A later printing is found in a brown buff on buff paper. The shade is peculiar and different from that of any other 2 lepta among the Greek stamps. There were many remainders of this issue and the greater proportion of the unused stamps of the Paris print are of this later issue.

5 Lepta.—The earliest specimen of this stamp in our possession is of a dull, almost gray green color. It has been called by some a pale emerald green and this very well designates its shade. The paper of this earliest print is of a very light greenish cast, being much nearer white paper than that used for the later printing. The 5 lepta green on greenish of the later print is a much commoner stamp than the earlier one. It is not so dull as the earlier stamps and does not partake of the yellowish tinge of the later issues.

10 Lepta.—This stamp is said to have been made in one print only but, if this be the fact, we cannot account for the great variation in shade in two stamps in our possession. The first, a beautiful unused copy, comes in what has been called a bright orange on bluish paper. The second is a used copy of a much lighter orange and on paper, which, when placed beside what is called bluish paper in the Greek stamps has a decidedly greenish tint. It is possible, of course, that there were two shades of paper and of ink used when the first printing was made but, unless there are documents with which we are not acquainted and which settle the fact that there was only a single printing, it seems more natural to divide the 10 lepta into two different printings, differing according to the shades of paper and of ink which we have described. It has been held by some that the lines of shading on the 10 lepta always come out more clearly than in the other values. This is true generally, but there are specimens in which the lines appear practically the same as on other values in which those on the face are more broken.

This value alone of all values has figures on the back. These are larger, however than those found upon the stamps of the Athens print, measurement being 8 millimetres high by 9 millimetres broad.

20 Lepta.—The earlier prints of this stamp are of somewhat brighter color than the later ones, although the difference is not marked. The stamps of the later issue are of a distinctly lighter shade and, although the paper in both issues is bluish, these later stamps, so far as we have seen, have a slightly yellowish cast. This may be the effect of time on paper which is of a character different from that used for the earliest prints. A cancelled stamp may be found in the duller, darker shade than those ordinarily seen. This may indicate either an additional printing or a variation of ink in one printing, such as we mentioned in writing about the 10 lepta stamp.

40 Lepta.—This stamp comes in a reddish violet tint. It varies very little in the two printings, the later being, if anything, slightly darker. The paper is blue with a tendency to a greenish cast in the earlier printed specimens.

80 Lepta.—The earliest prints of this stamp were made in rose of a dull shade and the later ones in carmine. There are a great many variations in tone such as are usually found in cases where a rose or carmine ink is used. The paper used for this denomination does not seem to differ very much from that employed for the 1 lepton stamps. It is however, usually of a pinkish cast as the coloring matter of the stamp seems to pass into the paper and give it a tinge. There is a very dangerous counterfeit of this stamp of which collectors should beware. The principal points of difference lie in the figures, which are somewhat larger in the counterfeit, and in the fact that the lines on the face are in all cases continuous. The central portion of the counterfeit also is one half millimetre narrower than that of the genuine stamp, which measures 18 millimetres.

It is not to be supposed that the general collector will have much desire to distinguish the variations to be found in the Paris prints, indeed the differences are so slight between the earlier and later prints of most of the values that we should not advise the attempt to secure them for a general collection. Stamps, as listed in our catalogue, with the possible addition of the variety of shade in the two and eighty lepta stamps, will probably be all the varieties of interest to the general collector.

ATHENS PRINT, CLEAR IMPRESSION.

Figures on the backs of all stamps except the 1 and 2 lepta.

The removal of the plates, prepared and used in Paris, to the city of Athens was followed by the production of a series of stamps known as the Athens print. The first work that was done from the plates, produced fine and clear impressions which, although not equal to those made in Paris, were still much better than the prints of the period following. This may be due in part to the presence of Parisian workmen or to the fine condition of the plates. It is obvious, at the first glance, that the conditions under which the work was done in Athens were different from those in Paris.

There were none of the stamps printed which show the characteristics of the Paris print. The lines on the cheek in our cut are nearly all continuous and the blunting of the ends of each line, resulting probably from a heavier pressure applied, in order to secure a complete impression of all parts of the



stamp, shows very plainly. The ink, also, was apparently affected by the difference in climate, for while there are some stamps of the earliest Athens print whose colors are almost the same as those of the Paris print, the majority of the stamps differ materially in their shades from those of the Paris issue. It is not possible to determine exactly the date, but the period of use was 1862 and the following years, until the gradual deterioration of the plates caused the stamps to obtain that appearance commonly spoken of as coarse impression. The collector who secures an understanding of the method adopted for the production of these stamps can separate them quite easily, both from the Paris and the later prints. It will be observed, in a comparison of our cuts, that in both the Paris and the early Athens, every line of shading on face and neck is separate and distinct from every other line. As deterioration in the plates proceeded, these lines became coarse and gradually united. In both the Paris and the earliest Athens print we have to consider only such stamps as have clear and well defined lines of shading on face and neck.

1 Lepton.—The color of the earliest prints of this stamp is almost the same as some of the Paris prints. It is a trifle lighter, but the difference is only such as might be expected from the way in which the ink was used, or that which climatic conditions might produce. It is quite evident that it was necessary to apply pressure differently or, at least, the printers of these stamps in Athens were obliged to apply the pressure differently from the way in which it was done in Paris, in order to produce the specimens which we find in use during the earliest period of the Athens print. The Paris prints are, if anything, darker around the head, and yet the shade of the face is lighter. The variation in shades is not very great but runs from a dark to a light brown in shades which may be called chocolate. The 1 lepton, value was in use during the years from 1862 to 1864 inclusive and scattered specimens of it are to be found in subsequent years. The paper in use is very similar to that employed for the Paris print although not so highly finished. The tint of it may be called creamish.

2 Lepta.—This stamp as it first appeared, differed considerably from the latest Paris print being a little more like the earlier Paris print but not showing the greenish tinge so marked in the bistre of the Paris print. The shades are considerable and vary from light to dark. The paper is creamish and differs only slightly in its tint from some of the stamps of the Paris print. In general the stamps are of a dull shade but the work is exceedingly fine and

clear. The plate of this stamp does not seem to have had as much use as some other values and therefore maintained its clearness for a longer period.

5 Lepta.—The color of this stamp is a deep, rich green, varying somewhat in shade and printed on a greenish tinted paper of fine quality. The earliest clear prints have upon their backs what is known as the closed figure "5" which is double lined throughout, and therefore the stamp is easily distinguishable from the later coarse prints. This is the fact, if we are to follow the view of the most advanced students of the present time, that this figure only was placed on the backs of these earliest stamps. Our dated stamps show a very fine and clear print, bearing the other figure "5" that was used later, known as the open figure, on two stamps dated August and September 1863. The shade of these is yellow green but the yellow tinge is not very pronounced. We have had specimens that were not dated, bearing the second figure "5" which we believe to have been issued in the early clear print period, but of this we have, at the present time, no positive evidence and therefore include only the stamp with the closed "5" on the back in our list of the stamps of the clear impression. Specimens of this stamp are sometimes found in a dark, green shade.

10 Lepta.—This stamp comes in a dull clear orange similar to the lighter shades of the Paris print. It is well printed throughout on a greenish tinted paper which, in some specimens, seems to be a very light blue. The shade of this stamp is somewhat darker in some specimens than in others but it does not exist in the red orange so common in later issues.

20 Lepta.—The earliest prints of this stamp were in a light blue of an exceedingly clear and brilliant tinge. This was considerably lighter than the ink used for the Paris prints, but, as time passed, it grew darker and most of the stamps used from 1862 to 1865 are found in shades similar to those of the Paris prints. Collectors have supposed that the stamp with the worn corners, just outside the circle at the centre, was the early Athens print, because of the peculiar fineness of the lines on the face. This stamp, however, did not appear until 1870 and all of the clear prints of the 20 lepta which we possess, during the early dated period, are well printed in all the corners. Fine specimens of this stamp of the lighter shade are exceedingly scarce. The paper that was used was of a light bluish tinge and similar in quality to that of the other stamps of the period.

40 Lepta.—The earliest stamps of this print are of a much richer, deeper color than was used in later periods. The color is a red violet, varying from light to dark, although the difference between the extremes is not great. The paper used was blue and of similar quality to that of the other stamps of the issue.

80 Lepta.—The color of this stamp ranges from a dull rose to a bright carmine. The shade of the earliest prints is one which, when seen, will never be forgotten. It is different from any shade found in 80 lepta used in later periods. In some specimens it even shows a trace of blue which would enable us to distinguish it as pink; but for a color name we prefer dull rose. It has been said that the distinctive characteristic of these first prints of the 80 lepta was the having upon the back a figure printed in vermillion instead of in carmine. We do not see that this method of distinction will apply, as we possess various shades from the dull rose to the carmine, having upon their backs the vermillion figures, and precisely the same shades of the same prints, so far as we have been able to determine, which have upon their backs the

carmine figures. It seem to be much the best way, in order to determine the date of these stamps, to make comparisons between their shades and those of other stamps of later prints. The color of the paper is pinkish, although in the earliest specimens the running of the colors does not appear so marked as in the stamps of the Paris print.

We shall not, in considering the prints of Greek stamps, pay much attention to the figures on the backs. These serve sometimes, as in the case of the five lepta, to enable us to determine the date and, as in the case of the eighty lepta, when we do find the vermillion figures upon it, we are inclined to think that it is of the earliest printing. The variations in the figures on the back are innumerable. The catalogues have not designated all of these varieties and also many which are shown are counterfeits. Consequently we deem it best, on the whole, to pay no attention to these variations, regarding them as of minor importance.

(To be continued.)



Notes on the First Issue of Samoa.

By JOHN N. LUFF.

It is probable that the majority of general collectors have been deterred from collecting the stamps of the first issue of Samoa by the known fact that large numbers of reprints exist. Until quite recently, very few collectors or dealers pretended to have any knowledge of them, or to be able to express a positive opinion as to the originality, or the contrary, of many specimens. During the past year a number of collectors in this city have devoted considerable attention to these stamps, and their efforts have been rewarded by an increase in knowledge and understanding of the subject, as is usually the result of well directed research. I have taken some small part in this study and so am familiar with its result. It will, of course, be scarcely necessary to say that one of the principal objects which we sought was a certain means of distinguishing originals from reprints. One of the first discoveries of importance was that these stamps could be plated.

As has been shown in a number of articles, the first and only die for these stamps was for the six pence. From this die twenty transfers (four rows of five) were made on a lithographic stone. In the stamps printed from this stone there are a few slight variations, due to defects in transferring, but it is extremely difficult to plate the majority of specimens. Subsequently, other stones were made from transfers which had the label of value blank. The desired denominations were afterwards added to each stone, and, by irregularities of placing and other defects, the stamps from these stones may be plated without much difficulty. The stamps of the early printings are all of type I, i.e., the white line above the word "EXPRESS" is straight and unbroken. In later printings we find a break in this line above the letter "x"; these stamps are usually called type II. It has not been decided whether the second type was caused by the line being weak at that point and breaking with the wearing of the stones, or if the defect was in the die and was transferred to new stones. Most of the leading specialists favor the former proposition. In the last printings we find the stamps of type III, in which the break above the "x" has been repaired by roughly redrawing the line. These last printings appear to be from new stones.

Thus, we see that it would be possible to locate all the original stamps, provided we had the necessary sheets. The unfortunate feature of the matter is that, so far as I know, no collector has yet secured all the sheets, either unsevered or restored.

As a way out of the difficulty, we turn to the sheets of reprints. We find that they, like the originals, were made by transfers and that the variations are sufficiently marked to enable us to plate the stamps. We find the reprints are quite common in sheets of forty, five rows of eight stamps each. There seem to have been three printings of these sheets, which may be distinguished thus: In the first printing the sheets are perforated 12, both between the stamps and around the outside of the sheet; the second and third printings are perforated respectively 12 and 12½, but neither has any perforation outside the stamps. However, these variations of perforation are unimportant, as far as concerns the distinguishing of reprints from the originals, since all three printings were from the same transfer for each denomination.

But it is quite well known that among the remainders purchased by Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. were a quantity of stamps in sheets of twenty-one (three rows of seven), which have since been shown to have been printed after the issue had become obsolete. The puzzling thing was that no trace of these sheets could be found. We had the reprints in sheets of forty and we had some sheets of originals, but, not finding all of the latter, were sometimes in doubt as to the status of stamps that did not plate on the sheets of forty. I am now able to clear up much of this obscurity, thanks to the recent purchase of some fragments of the sheets of twenty-one stamps. I have obtained blocks of nine of several values and a nearly complete sheet of the one penny (three rows of six stamps), sufficient to enable me to determine the make-up of the stones. All these fragments have margins on three sides and none have more than three horizontal rows of stamps. The reason that we have not been able to recognize the reprints from the sheets of twenty-one is that the same transfers, or a majority of them, were incorporated in the sheets of forty.

In the sheets of twenty-one each stamp was separately transferred, at least such material as I now have supports this conclusion. The sheets of forty were arranged after two plans: For the 1, 2 and 6 pence the block of three rows of seven was first transferred to a stone; next, a transfer of the upper two rows was placed above the other three; then the third stamp of the third, fourth and fifth rows was repeated at the right end of the first, second and third rows; and, finally, duplicates of the seventh stamp of rows four and five were placed at the end of those rows, thus completing the group of forty. In making up the sheets of 3 and 9 pence, 1, 2 and 5 shillings, a group of twelve stamps was transferred upon a new stone. This group comprised the first four vertical rows of the sheet of twenty-one, counting from the left; after this, duplicates of the lower two rows of this block were placed below it and, lastly, the whole group of twenty was repeated to form the other half of the sheet. Thus we see that the majority of the varieties in the sheets of twenty-one stamps were reproduced in the sheets of forty. In the case of single specimens it is, of course, impossible to determine to which printing they belong.

There is, however, one thing to be remembered. Knowing some of the sheets of the first reprints to have contained twenty-one varieties, I have assumed that all of the series were made up in the same manner. I have not now sufficient material to prove or disprove this conclusion, but, accepting it as being correct, there were nine varieties of the 3 and 9 pence, 1, 2 and 5 shillings which were not reproduced in the sheets of forty and yet remain to be identified. There is, of course, a possibility that there was duplication of the varieties in the smaller sheets of these values and that we now know all the varieties which have existed. The point which I desire to make is that, by comparing doubtful stamps with reprints of sheets of forty (which are quite common and may be obtained for a small sum), we will be able to decide the status of the majority of the specimens.

The original 9 pence, 1, 2 and 5 shillings stamps were all printed in sheets of ten (two rows of five) and were not perforated around the outside,—thus each stamp has one or two blank edges. When, therefore, we find a stamp of any of these denominations perforated on all four sides, we may safely pronounce it a reprint or an original with part of the perforations counterfeited, with the chances very largely in favor of it being the former.

Notes on the Stamps of Portugal.

A PAPER READ BEFORE THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON ON MAY 25TH,
1900, BY M. P. CASTLE.

From *London Philatelist*.

(Continued from page 238.)

ISSUE VI. 1862 (JULY TO SEPTEMBER). DOM LUIS.



According to M. Moens, the 5 reis, the 10 (in *jaune d'or*), 25 (blue-green), and the 100 reis were issued on July 1st, 1862, followed by the 5 reis in September, the colors of the 10 being orangish and of the 50 yellowed respectively in March, 1863, and April, 1864. The issue can therefore be properly entitled 1862, and is noteworthy for the introduction of a fresh value, 10 reis, of a somewhat bizarre shape. The stamp was produced under the same auspices as heretofore. The gum is practically white, an occasional lapse only to the brownish tone being observable. The paper becomes more uniform, and may be described as of medium thickness, varying somewhat in texture, any specimens on thin paper observable being due probably to an occasional uneven spreading of the pulp, and not denoting any special delivery of different quality or thickness. Of the 5 reis there are the two known types, the first having the figure "5" two mm. distant from the "R" of "REIS," and the second having these details $\frac{3}{4}$ mm. farther apart. This stamp also exists (as shown) having a double impression, the first being in plain relief, two sheets having probably been inadvertently impressed at one time, the undermost one being subsequently restruck in color. As to the 100, I would only call attention to the wide and varying interstices between the horizontal rows. The 25 reis once more affords the main interest. After my correspondence with Mr. Wasserman I turned naturally to the 25 reis, and, as I expected, I found "types" likewise. I have so far found four varieties here, which I will briefly describe, but which can be more readily followed by the aid of the stamps themselves; in each case the variety (a) is the most important.

- Type I. (a) Variety of background above "E" of "CORREIO." (b) First "R" of "CORREIO" has the tail straight down. (c) Partial double embossing of value.
- Type II. (a) Variety of background above "E" of "CORREIO." (b) Thick tails to "RR" of same. (c) Background above "EIS" of "REIS."
- Type III. (a) Variety of background above "EIS" of "REIS."
- Type V. (a) Variety of background above "EI" of "CORREIO." (b) "O" of "CORREIO" slightly nearer end of label.

Types I. and IV. seem the rarest; the latter all came from a portion of a sheet recently discovered. With regard to the 50 and 100 reis, there is nothing noteworthy except the variations caused by more or less heavy striking. The 1886 reprint is on Type III.

SYNOPSIS.

ISSUE VI. 1862 (JULY TO SEPTEMBER). DOM LUIS.

5 reis,	brown shades;	Type I.
"	dark brown shades;	Type I.
"	brown	" " II.
"	dark brown	" "
"	brown	" " double print.
10 reis,	pale yellow.	
"	orange-yellow.	
25 reis,	rose	{ four varieties.
"	pale rose	
"	lake-rose	
50 reis,	blue-green shades.	
"	yellow-green	"
100 reis,	lilac shades.	

Note.—The paper varies slightly, but is medium thickness generally.

ISSUE VII. 1866 (JULY 25TH) TO 1867 (FEBRUARY). DOM LUIS.



Spread over a period of seven months, a fresh presentation of His Majesty King Luis gradually made its appearance, not as hitherto a native artist's work, but executed by M. C. Wiener, of Brussels, and produced at the Hôtel de la Monnaie at Lisbon. M. Wiener was no doubt glad to sign his work on the base of the neck, but I cannot see that he had much to be proud of, or that his artistic skill was any improvement on that of his Portuguese predecessor. Three new values were introduced in this set—20, 80 and 120 reis—to meet new postal rate requirements; the gum was uniformly yellowish, and the paper thick, while the plates were now constructed of seven rows of four stamps, twenty-eight in all (Westoby). The 5 and 25 reis present minor variations in the setting up of the numerals of value, and it would appear that in this and the subsequent issues one matrix die only was constructed, and that it was reduplicated with the addition of the respective figures of the different values. The 5 reis I have only been able to find in two varieties, which are easily distinguishable, as the right upper "5" in one case leans forward far more than in the other. The 25 reis presents more difficulties. I have so far found three varieties, but there may well be more.

Variety 1 has the figures "2" and "5" closely approaching each other in the upper right angle.

Variety 2 has the figures more separated.

Variety 3 has the "2" above the "5" in the lower right angle.

The remaining values call for no especial mention.

ISSUE VIII. 1867 (SEPTEMBER) TO 1870. DOM LUIS.

The appearance of this issue, which is identical, except on the score of perforation, with the last, was spread over three years, although all the values except the 100 (March, 1869) and a new one of 240 reis were given out within a few months from the first-named date. The 240 did not, however, appear until 1870. The perforating machine, which gave a gauge of $12\frac{1}{2}$ was supplied from Brussels by MM. Gouweloos Bros. (Westoby), paper and gum being as before. As is known, there are two types of the 5 reis, differing only in the numerals, the upper right "5" being closer to the outside of the label in one than the other. Of the former there is a small variety with broken frame under "REIS." A third variety has been mentioned, but I consider it only a defective impression or partial "double strike," causing a blurred background. The 25 reis exists in numerous types of the numerals. I have, I believe, so far unearthed seven principal and two minor varieties, and there are doubtless more, so that I need not at the present moment inflict upon you a schedule of the differences. Suffice it to say that the position of the four groups of numerals "25" will be found by their respective placings to constitute these varieties, which, as you will see by a block of nine, are constant in the same sheet. In the remaining values there is nothing novel except a "double strike" of the 120 reis. I may remark here that in imperforate series collectors require good margins. Pairs, except of the low values, are scarce, and these two issues generally are melting out of sight. The reprints are scarcer than the originals! The colors of both series are well described in the catalogue, so I omit synopsis.

ISSUE IX. 1870 (DECEMBER) TO 1873 (SEPTEMBER). DOM LUIS.

As might have been anticipated, M. Wiener's work did not entail any ecstatic joy on the part of the worthy Portuguese, and they therefore wisely again had recourse to a native artist for a new series of stamps—M. Campos, of Lisbon. Mr. Westoby in his work called this a "servile imitation of Wiener's work," and generally fell foul of it, but I must confess I consider it a great improvement, and that the stamps are at once serviceable and artistic. I do not propose to go into detail with this issue, the last on which I touch, as much has been lately added to the catalogues, and I fancy there is yet more to learn than I can now place before you, my only object being to call attention to one or two further variations of figures, and point out to my *confrères* the direction in which they can usefully prosecute their labors. There are of course two principal perforations ($12\frac{1}{2}$ and $13\frac{1}{2}$). In the former I have found three varieties of the 25 reis.

A. *Perf. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$.*

Variety 1. "2" and "5" of "25" evenly spaced.
 " 2. " " " closer to left.
 " 3. " " " " right.

50 reis.

Variety 1. "5" and "0" of "50" closer together.
 " 2. " " wider apart.

B. Perf. 13½.

25 reis.

Variety 4. Relative positions of "2" and "5" varying in angles.

" 5.	"	"	"
" 6.	"	"	"
" 7.	"	"	"

I have compared the last four varieties with the other 25, perf. 12½, and I cannot see that any 12½ perforated variety is to be met with perf. 13½. This seems almost unaccountable, and presupposes the existence of a number of plates. The reduplication of small plates of twenty-eight would, however, present nothing of a deterrent nature.

The questions of the types of the 15, bistre-brown, and 20, rose, and the two different classes of papers employed for the majority of these embossed stamps, with the collation of the various perforations, present many features of interest, which I hope to touch on at some future date. I have already far exceeded the limits of an ordinary paper, but I hope that I have shown—aided by the stamps themselves—that there is much both to delight and instruct the collector who throws himself heart and soul into the study of what I may call the Portuguese Cameos.

A Simple Test by which Most Japanese Counterfeits can be Detected.

By W. C. EATON.

A book received to-day, on a circuit of one of our prominent philatelic societies, contained many Japanese stamps of the early and rare issues which were dangerous counterfeits, and the fact that stamps had been removed by at least three different collectors before the book reached me has led me to feel that a word of warning, together with a very simple test by which most Japanese counterfeits can be detected, should be given in the JOURNAL.

As six out of seven stamps on one page of this circuit book were counterfeits it is altogether probable that the stamps already taken were of the same character and this emphasizes the danger in them.

I do not refer particularly to the well known "fac similes" with the two small characters with which most collectors, I imagine, are now familiar, but to much more dangerous counterfeits, though the test will apply to most of these fac similes as well.

The thing to do is to count the leaves, or petals, in the chrysanthemum.

The Imperial crest of Japan is the chrysanthemum; not any chrysanthemum but the "sixteen leaved chrysanthemum" only. It was formerly, and probably is still, a very grave offence to counterfeit this Imperial crest

and therefore most Japanese counterfeiters avoid it by making the chrysanthemum with some other number of petals and, while it does not necessarily follow that all Japanese stamps with a "sixteen leaved chrysanthemum" are genuine, it is a sure thing that all which do not have sixteen petals are counterfeits. This is a very simple test to which I have never seen any other writer direct attention. Some years ago I sent a brief article on this point to a now defunct Boston philatelic journal but have never seen it elsewhere and I doubt that it is generally known. Even the Catalogue for Advanced Collectors has overlooked it.

On the sheet of "fac similes" I have in my collection only the 4 sen (both rose and green) has sixteen petals, so the test easily disposes of all of that lot with this exception of the 4 sen. There are also some exceedingly dangerous counterfeits of the rare 1 sen, brown, (without syllabic characters), with no "fac simile" characters, in which the petals are correctly given as far as the number is concerned. But it will be found that the great majority of counterfeit Japanese stamps on the market have more or less than sixteen, generally less.

Another point is also worthy of notice. On every genuine Japanese stamp which I possess, issued previous to the 1876-77 issue (and my collection is very full, with scores of shades and syllabic characters nearly complete) the center of the top of the chrysanthemum is the dividing line between two petals; while in the 1876-77 issue and all issues thereafter the center of the top is the center of a petal; that is to say, from 1876 on one of the petals occupies the central position at the top but does not in any previous issue. My counterfeits, however, do not follow this rule at all. My counterfeits of the rare 1 sen referred to above, and I have several, all fail in this feature, a petal occupying the central position, which should be occupied by the dividing line between two petals. The only counterfeits I have which are correct both as to position of top petal and number of petals are the 4 sen "fac simile", rose and green, and they can be told by the color as well as the two extra characters.

Of course, without having a dealer's stock to examine, I cannot affirm positively that the positions of the top petals are always as I have stated, but my collection contains some four hundred and eighty specimens, exclusive of the counterfeits, of which over three hundred and fifty are of the issues bearing the chrysanthemum, and this feature is true of every one of them, and so I think it may be fairly concluded that it is the case with all, and that any departure from this arrangement may be considered a fairly conclusive test that the stamp is a counterfeit.

As counting the petals is an especially easy way in which to detect the great majority of Japanese counterfeits, I trust this information may be not unwelcome to your readers, though I fear that many will have that "tired feeling" when they apply it to their collections, for the Japanese counterfeiter is a crafty workman and much of his work is abroad.



Our English Letter.

BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.

LONDON, 25, September, 1901.

May I be allowed to offer my congratulations on the formation of a strong Company to take over and continue the work of the Scott Stamp and Coin Co. On this side, the successful flotation of the Company is regarded as proof of the soundness of the stamp trade and the hold of stamp collecting in America, and the assured continuation of the good old AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHILATELY, with its long list of vols., stretching away back into the early days of philately, is also no small matter for congratulation in the eyes of leading collectors. For of all things that demonstrate the stability of stamp-collecting, there are few to compare with the evidence that is afforded by the continued publication of such old journals, for so many years, without a break.

And here let me put in a word for the philatelic journal. I can speak from experience when I assert that collectors as a whole are singularly neglectful of their journals. With one or two notable exceptions, philatelic journals have to struggle on with a circulation ranging from a few hundred to a couple of thousand. I question if any English monthly has a *bond fide* sale of even a thousand copies, bar Gibbons's *Monthly Journal*. Now, with the number of collectors who would directly and substantially benefit from reading regularly a good philatelic monthly, the circulation of a decent journal should be, at the very least, 5,000 to 10,000, and even more.

What is the result of this neglect? The result is simply that philatelic journals are literally starved for means to carry on without incurring heavy loss. Leading collectors, out of love for their hobby, and out of sheer enthusiasm, are continually putting their hands into their pockets to find the means to produce good journals for the benefit of their fellow collectors. Within the last two years I have dropped over £150 on one journal to help make both ends meet and keep a good old journal from dropping out of sight.

There is yet another result of this neglect, and that is this. For lack of the needful means collectors are continually deprived of the publication or the results of some of the most painstaking research; deprived of it because its publication would cost a good round sum for illustrations and literary matter. A grand philatelic monthly magazine could be produced, with splendid full page plates, to sell at a shilling a month, if it could secure an advertising patronage of £50 a month, and a circulation of 10,000. But the general run of collector would think you crazy if you put such a scheme before him. And the collector who thinks nothing of spending his £5 a month on stamps would ridicule the idea of spending a whole shilling a month on a single journal.

But it is a penny wise and pound foolish policy at best which regards the philatelic journal as rather a nuisance than a necessity. Without its journals I venture to assert that stamp collecting would have been dead years ago, and further, I have no hesitation in asserting the belief that if the philatelic journals of to-day were discontinued for even a twelve month most dealers would, by the end of that time, be filing their petitions in bankruptcy.

It will probably seem somewhat of a paradox that I should complain of the lack of support accorded to philatelic journals in one paragraph, and in the next credit such neglected journals with the immense power of keeping stamp collecting alive. But what I complain of is the measure of the support, what it is compared with what it should be. As a matter of fact, the best circulated journal in this country, the *Monthly Journal* is produced and published at a very heavy loss, and I daresay the same is the tale that the proprietors of the *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHILATELY* would have to tell, for its small subscription, even on a very large circulation, could not possibly meet the outlay. Hence it follows that collectors, who are to be numbered in each country by their hundreds of thousands, are, from some cause or another, not represented as supporters of stamp journals by more than five per cent. at the outside. Personally, I doubt if it reaches even one per cent. Now, if you were to button-hole any rational collector, and offer to bet him two to one that not five collectors in a hundred subscribed to stamp journals he would probably think you had recently suffered from sunstroke. But the fact is undeniable. Who will supply the explanation?

The Cynic may shrug his shoulders and ask you what else you could expect, and he might tell you to produce a good journal worth paying for, and then note the result. To such a man I would point to splendid numbers of the *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHILATELY*, *The Monthly Journal*, the *Philatelic Record* and the *London Philatelist*, and ask him to take his seat in the editorial chair, and even suggest better work. No, sir, it is not in the fare, though it may be scrappy now and again, but in the utter failure of the average collector to recognize the absolute monetary value to himself of a good philatelic journal.

The dealer, and even the collector, who takes in the leading philatelic journals, and regularly goes through them, and notes this and that, and puts two and two together, and watches the market with the light thus afforded him, can make a decent living out of the ignoramus who grudges a dollar on a philatelic journal. Many and many a pleasant bargain have I had from dealers of varieties which should have been well-known as having been fully and publicly described in the philatelic journals. But the average dealer belongs to the same class as the average collector in the matter of studying the literature of stamps.

Collectors owe more than they dream of to enterprising firms of stamp dealers who sink so much capital as they do in stamp journals. It is true they do it from a business point of view, but it is none the less true that the average collector does little or nothing to help.

In my last letter I referred to the suggestion of the *Stamp Collector's Fortnightly* that Earl Crawford was the mysterious person who had purchased the Castle collection. Messrs. Hamilton Smith & Co., who negotiated the sale, now assure me that the surmise is wrong. But another party now informs me that the real purchaser was an exhibitor at the recent Hague Exhibition. It is somewhat amusing to note how well the secret has been kept. Out of all the anxiously curious I believe there are only three dealers who are in "the know."

Sometime since you were questioning the issue of the 3d British Bechuanaland. Thereupon, I wrote to the Controller of Stamps and asked if the stamp had been issued, and was promptly informed that it had. I had not then seen a copy. Since then Messrs. Bright & Son got hold of a few copies which they sold at 3s 6d each. The question now is whether it is still current.

There is no definite news yet of our promised King's head issue, and it looks very much like dragging on to the Coronation, as I suggested months ago it might do. Meanwhile, we have some foreshadowing of the new penny value. We are told on pretty reliable authority that it is to be purple and black on red paper, and I imagine the latest British Guiana 2 cents is a sample of the combination of colors. Indeed I should not be surprised to find that all the 1d and 2c values, printed by De la Rue, for our Colonies follow the color combinations of this new British Guiana 2 cents.

But I am told that the Colonies are showing a decided preference for the latest fashion of picture stamps, instead of ordering King's head stamps, as they are desired to do. Some would like a mixture of picture, King's head and Queen's head, and it is not improbable that such sets may be the fashion next year.

As an item in the romance of stamp collecting, and as illustrating that now and again the dealer who knows a thing or two does make a profit occasionally I can vouch for the accuracy of the following. A Colonial recently walked into a London dealer's office and offered some stamps for sale. One, an error, for which he had paid one penny at the post office when it was issued many years ago, he thought he ought to get a good price for. He was not a stamp collector, but he put 25s on it. The dealer purchased the stamp, and a few hours after his exacting customer had left he sold his new purchase to a well-known Strand dealer for one hundred pounds. The last purchaser has boasted to me of his acquisition, well knowing what was paid for it by the former dealer seller. The £100 is by no means an outside price. Being a grand specimen the present owner will probably make a profit of £50.



The Hague Philatelic Exhibition.

NOTES ON MOST OF THE EXHIBITS AND LISTS OF AWARDS.

By F. E. WILSON.

(Continued from page 234.)

NOTE.—The numbers given are from the 60th Edition of the Standard Catalogue.

Class II.

Special collections of Holland and Colonies, unused and used mixed.

F. Krause.—*Bronze medal.*

This was a choice little collection neatly mounted and arranged. The following called for special attention among the unused:

1852 : block of six 5c, block of four 10c, and pair 15c.

1864 : pair 15c.

1867 : This issue was not divided into types or perforations, but included one copy each of 5 and 10c perf. $10\frac{1}{2} \times 10$.

1872-75 issue was also not sub-divided.

1891-94 issue included a very fine lot of well selected ranges of shades. Unpaid, 1881 issue, was not divided into types, and they were the first lot I had come across in the exhibition arranged in this primitive manner.

The used specimens in this exhibit were, without exception, extra fine specimens and well picked shades. They included the following:

1852 : four shades of 5c in pairs; three strips of three and strip of five 5c; four pairs and two strips of three 10c; four pairs, three strips of three, and strip of four 15c.

1864 issue included four pairs and the only block of four 15c in the exhibition.

1867 : block of eight 5c.

Unpaid, 1881-87 issue, the four types complete.

Class III.

Special collections of Holland and Colonies, not coming under Classes I or II.

P. H. W. Provó Kluit.—*Silver medal.*

This exhibit consisted of used and unused specimens of most kinds arranged together.

Holland : 1852 issue included the best unused copy of 5c milky blue in the whole exhibition.

1867 : 15 and 20c perf. $10\frac{1}{2} \times 10$ used.

1891-94 : rather dirty copy of the 5c yellow error.

Unpaid, 1870 : 5c brown on yellow unused and used.

Unpaid, 1881-87 : all four types were shown complete unused and used.

Unpaid, 1894 issue included some of the rarest specimens in the exhibition, viz : $2\frac{1}{2}$, 5, $12\frac{1}{2}$ c dull ultramarine type II unused, 10c dull ultramarine type II used.

Dutch Indies single specimens of most kinds were shown unused and used.

1870-86: 10 and 12½c with broken "c" in "CENT", and a number of minor varieties and flawed plates.

Unpaid, 1882-86: the four types complete unused and used.

Curacao and Surinam consisted of a single specimen collection of unused and used, and included the first issues of both Colonies on bluish paper complete. Many of the rarer types of Unpaid were wanting.

A. Hoevels.—Bronze medal.

Single specimen collection of Holland and the three Colonies without varieties of perforation.

1851 issue included a poor copy of the 5c milky blue unused.

1891-94: 5c yellow error.

Unpaid, 1881-87: the set in the fourth type unused was short of the rare 5, 10 and 12½c, and also of the common 1½c. This set used was shown complete.

Dutch Indies, Curacao and Surinam were principally represented by single specimens of unused and used, short of many kinds, and also of the rarer types of Unpaid.

A. C. W. Roodenburg.—Bronze medal.

Single specimen collection containing principally used specimens in fine condition, the majority being with rare and out of the way cancellations.

1867: 20c green perf. 10½x10 used.

Unpaid, 1870: pair 5c brown on yellow.

Unpaid, 1881-87: complete set in the fourth type.

Dutch Indies, Unpaid, 1874-76: 5c ochre used.

Unpaid, 1882-86: the four types complete unused and used mixed.

Curacao and Surinam included fine unused sets of the first issue on bleuté, 2½ to 50c.

The following were unsuccessful competitors in this class:

Miss R. Kerlen showed a very small collection of Holland and Colonies, nearly all used, the only stamp of any scarcity being Dutch Indies, Unpaid, 1874-76: 5c ochre.

Freiheer von Normann, showed a collection of Surinam unused and

used, including a large number of blocks of the recent provisionals, all apparently postmarked to order.

1892 : 2½ on 50c brown orange, doubly surcharged, unused.

The 1898 and 1900 provisionals included a number of curiosities of surcharge.

1900 : 25c on 50c orange, a portion of a sheet of this stamp was shown, consisting of 50 stamps (5 rows of 10) in the early, small holes, pin perforation. The Unpaid were short of most of the rare types.

Class IV.—Division A.

Special collections of postmarks of Holland, historically collected.

G. F. Leliman.—*Silver gilt medal.*

This collection was contained in four large albums.

B. Halberstadt.—*Bronze medal.*

This exhibit also was shown in two albums.

Class IV.—Division B

Special collections of postmarks of Holland, geographically collected.

Jhr. C. Ph. L. van Kinschot.—*Bronze medal.*

This was a very large collection, contained in 29 small albums, of which only a few pages were visible.

H. J. Schäfer.—*Bronze medal.*

Also a very extensive collection of obliterations, on adhesives, Unpays and postcards. A large portion of this exhibit was shown in the cases, and I noted the following :

Unpaid, 1870 : 5c brown, with numbered postmarks, one page only was shown, containing numbers 76 to 100, and of the 10c numbers 51 to 75. These exist and were complete in this exhibit, I believe, from No. 1-259.

A number of specimens of Dutch stamps used abroad, including English (Cowes), German (Neuwied and Frankfurt am Main), Belgian, Egyptian and Dutch Indies obliterations, also examples of French, Belgian and Spanish stamps used with Dutch cancellations.

A Dutch Indies stamp with Amsterdam postmark.

Holland 5c first issue, obliterated with an 1836 hand-stamp (Kempen).

Class V.

Special collections of postmarks of Dutch Colonies.

Jhr. C. Ph. L. van Kinschot.—*Silver medal.*

Freiheer von Normann.—*Bronze medal.*

I could not locate either of these two exhibits, they were probably shown in albums.

Class VI.

Special collections of the entires of Holland and Colonies.

Jhr. C. Ph. L. van Kinschot.—*Silver gilt medal.*

The envelopes, postcards and letter cards, were mostly represented in an unused and used condition. Among the Curacao was a copy of the 1879 postcard $7\frac{1}{2}$ on $12\frac{1}{2}$ c with double surcharge.

H. J. Schäfer.—*Silver medal.*

This was also a very extensive exhibit, and included among the Dutch Indies envelopes, a copy of the 10c, 1886-88, on white paper, with round flap, unused, and also a similar specimen used; this rarity was not included in the former exhibit.

Among the Dutch post cards was a set of four of the special issue to commemorate the coronation of Queen Wilhelmina.

Class VII.

Special collections of proofs and essays of the postage stamps and entires of Holland and Colonies.

Jhr. C. Ph. L. van Kinschot.—*Silver medal.*

This exhibit contained a magnificent lot of proofs, essays, etc., of the mother country and the three Colonies.

The Holland included among many others:

An essay of 1869, 10c red, pen drawn.

Enlarged essays of designs for the 1891 issue (Queen Wilhelmina), by Gips of Delft and Berden of The Hague.

Proofs of the 1852 issue, single copy 5c in black, and ditto in pale blue (unwmkd !) and 10c in deep blue, in a block of four each.

Proofs and essays of the later issues were shown in singles, blocks and strips, including some on card.

Dutch Indies, proof of the 10c lake, 1864, imperf., in blue and ditto of the 10c, 1868, perf., in blue.

1870-74 issue: a number of sets, perf., in fancy colors.

Curacao and Surinam were represented by imperforate proofs in black and colors.

The Unpaid stamps of Holland and the Colonies consisted mostly of "specimen" stamps.

J. A. Wreesman, Jr.—*Silver medal.*

This was a much smaller collection than the last, very well mounted and described.

A. Beijen.—*Bronze medal.*

For a small collection of about 700 proofs and color trials of Holland and Colonies.

The only other competitor in this class was Mr. H. H. J. Schäfer, whose collection of these things was however quite small, and nothing like as com-

plete as one would have expected from a collector who gained the gold medal in Class I, Division A.

Class VIII.—Division A.

Special collections of any one of the following countries: Germany and States, France, Great Britain, Italy and States, Spain or Switzerland.

Count P. Durrieu.—*Gold medal* with the congratulations of the Jury for Special collection of France (unused).

These were a magnificent lot and fully worthy of the highest award which they obtained, as this exhibit was the finest example of a specialized collection in the exhibition and justly formed one of the principal centers of attraction.

Singles, pairs, strips, blocks, part and entire sheets were included. Nearly every stamp was shown in a splendid range of shades, and reprints, reissues, essays, proofs, varieties and errors were present in an almost bewildering profusion. The accurate descriptions and historical notes inserted throughout, added considerably to the interest of the exhibit.

The following were among the more prominent of the normal varieties:

1849-50, first issue.

Seventeen singles from pale to dark, three pairs and six blocks of four of the 10c bistre, tête bêche pair of 10c. The rare 15c green was admirably represented by six single copies, one pair and two blocks of four.

20c blue (error): single copy and tête bêche pair of originals, also an entire sheet of 150 containing three tête bêches.

20c black: three pages were shown, containing blocks, and portions of sheets, including four tête bêches.

25c blue: three blocks of four, strip of three, two used tête bêche pairs, and two unused single copies showing variety, line omitted at bottom of border.

40c orange: seven pairs and eight blocks of four; bottom portion of sheet consisting of two rows of ten with full margins; superb pair 40c type II. The 40c included a superb single, pair and block of four in an intensely deep shade.

1fr vermilion: six singles, pair, and two blocks of four.

1fr carmine: ten single copies, pair, four blocks of four, tête bêche pair, and strip of five containing a tête bêche.

1fr venetian red: seven singles, pair, and tête bêche pair used on original cover.

1852 issue.

10c: nine single copies from pale to dark bistre, superb pair with right hand margin, and a strip of three, creased. This value was a little weak, and did not include a block of four.

25c included two pairs and two blocks of four.

1853-60 issue.

5c: a page of the deep green was shown, containing eight single copies, vertical pair and two blocks of four, one of the latter being from the top left hand corner of sheet, with full margins, and showing the green enclosing line which was on the first sheets only. Five pairs and five blocks of four, 5c light green.

10c : two pages, including two strips of three and two blocks of four ; the rare yellow shade was shown in singles only, and the very pale yellow in a vertical and horizontal pair.

20c blue : from pale to deep, thirteen blocks of four and a left hand top strip of three, with full margins, and outer line, same as in the 5c.

20c blue on greenish : three single copies, one in a very deep shade.

20c blue on rose-tinted paper : strip of three and block of four.

25c blue : pair, two blocks of four and one block of six.

40c orange : five singles in an intensely deep shade, pair of very pale orange, six blocks of four in the normal color.

80c deep carmine included a single copy in a rare claret color and two tête bêche pairs. This was one of the few values that was missing in a block of four.

80c rose : ten singles, pair, and two blocks of four, pair and block of four with tête bêche.

1fr lake : four pairs, three blocks of four and one block of six.

1862 issue.

Three tête bêches of the 20c blue and two of the 80c rose.

1863-70 issue.

Block of six, 4c gray, containing tête bêche ; five singles and pair of 5fr gray-lilac, but no block of four, in which condition this stamp appears to be very rare.

20c blue imperf. : used on piece of original, sold at a few offices during 1869.

A set of imperforate part sheets (Rothschild impression), consisting of five rows of ten each of the following values : 1, 2, 4, 10, 20, 30, 40 and 80c.

1870, Bordeaux issue.

20c, type I : six very fine singles and a pair.

Seven pages of the 40c were shown, and among the rare vermilion shades were two pairs and a strip of three in a dark color, and a pair and block of four in a pale shade.

The 80c were not quite so extensively shown, among them were a block of 25, the first stamp to left in third row being an *accident de tirage*, "88" instead of "80".

The following entire sheets of the Bordeaux issue :

Three of 1c, two of 2c, 4c and 5c.

1863-70 issue.

A copy of the 10c bistre with head of Emperor cut out, used on cover the day after the Revolution, September 5th, 1870.

Numerous specimens of balloon post letters, used from Paris during the siege, including a quarter of 80c rose, 1863-70, used as 20c.

1870-71.

Three tête bêches of the 10c bistre.

Eight tête bêches of the 20c blue.

25c blue tête bêche.

Two blocks of four, 40c orange, lower two stamps in each block being type II.

1871-74.

10c bistre on rose (small figures) ; eight tête bêches and entire sheet of 150, showing three tête bêches.

The error 15c rose, *se tenant* with the 10c, was represented by a pair, and also in an entire pane of 150 10c, the error being the last stamp in the ninth row.

1876, type I.

Four singles, pair and block of four 25c.

Used horizontal strip of three 25c, showing error, cliché of type I inserted in plate of type II, center stamp being in the first, and the two outside ones in the second type.

The remainder of this exhibit was not shown in the frames, with the exception of one stamp, viz : 75c brown on orange, 1879-92, of which twenty-three blocks of four were shown in wonderful shades.

Count Durrieu's superb exhibit gained, in addition to the highest medal of its class, one of the two special "Medailles d'honneur" given in connection with the exhibition.

G. P. Grignard.—*Silver medal.*

France unused and used.

This was a smaller collection and included a large number of millesimes and a few essays.

Block of four 15c green, first issue, unused ; the error 15c rose, 1871-74, *se tenant* with the 10c.

1876 : 25c ultramarine, type I unused ; 1877-78 : 1c indigo blue, very fine, with top margins.

1868, Newspaper stamps : 2c violet, 2c blue and 2c rose imperf., unused.

D. M. DeHeer.—*Bronze medal.*

Spain unused and used. A number of the rarities were wanting in this exhibit, which included a good many large blocks of the commoner kinds, and also the following :

1851 : 2 reals orange, fine, used.

1852 : 2 reals red, used, poor, and block of twelve 12c lilac.

1853, Madrid : 1c used ; the 3c was missing.

1853 : 2 reals scarlet, unused and used.

1872 : 10 pesetas blue-green, used.

1873 : 4 and 10 pesetas, unused only ; the same remark applies to the top of 1875, 1876 and 1878. It is surprising how few collections contain these early 10 pesetas, used.

There was considerable competition in this class, which included also the four following exhibits :

Count P. Durrieu, Spain. This was mainly a very choice single specimen collection, quality throughout was excellent, the first four issues were shown complete unused, including a copy of the 2 reals *blue*, 1851, marked, "probably an essay."

1851 : pair 2 reals, used on original with pair 10r.

1854 : 2c green on bluish, unused (a stamp which was not shown at Paris last year).

1854 : two used copies of the 1 real pale blue.

1855 : used strip of three 1 real, center stamp being the error 2 reals.

- 1865 : 4c blue, imperf., unused, with good margins, apparently cleaned.
 1865 : 12c blue and rose, with inverted frame, single copy and strip of three showing center stamp with frame inverted, used.
 1865 : 12c blue and rose perf., with inverted frame, used.
-

J. Engel.

German Empire, States and Colonies.

Single specimen collection, very complete, and mostly well selected copies. The majority of the stamps were used, with the exception of those instances in which they are rarer in used than unused condition.

A. Hovels.

German Empire, States and Colonies.

Single specimen collection of used and unused stamps mixed.

J. Hupfeld.

German Empire and States unused. This collection was the same as when shown at Paris last year, and a description of it will be found on pages 373 and 374 of the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHILATELY for 1900.

Class VIII.—Division B.

Special collections of any one country of Europe, with the exception of Holland, and those countries in Division A.

F. T. Günther.—*Silver gilt medal.*

Greece. This exhibit was shown in two (?) large albums and the pages visible contained specimens used on original envelopes, including the 1901 issue, and early Greek stamps used with Austrian Levant and Russian stamps.

V. Haro.—*Silver medal.*

Belgium unused. This was a fine and creditable exhibit, containing a number of choice stamps, the third issue in particular being exceptionally strong.

1849 : two singles, two pairs and block of four, 10c ; four singles one pair and block of four, 20c (two of the single copies being in a pale, but not the true milky blue shade).

1851, watermarked LL in frame : single copy and block of four, 10c ; block of four, 20c ; two singles, one a very fine deep rose color, and a strip of three 40c ; these 40c I should judge were all cleaned, with the exception of the deep rose shade.

1851, watermarked LL without frame : two singles, strip of three and block of twelve, 10c ; 20c blue, two single copies, one in a curiously pale shade, and a block of six; the 40c was represented by one copy only. A set of the three values was also shown on ribbed paper, the ribbing being exceptionally plain on the 20c.

1861, imperf. : nine singles, three pairs and block of sixteen 1c ; pair and single 10c ; single 20c, in a very worn state of the plate, and pair 20c ; 40c five specimens, and a pair in a pale claret-red shade.

1863 issue was not divided into the three sets of perforations well-known to specialists ; fifteen copies of the 40c were shown.

1866 : five copies of the 1fr, perf. $14\frac{1}{2} \times 14$, and two copies of ditto perf. 15.

The 1870-78 issues were lacking in a number of shades, and the same remark applies to the Newspaper stamps. These latter included some of the broken letters, 1c gray "Delgique" and 1c olive "Belgique."

Count d'Assche.—Silver medal.

Greece. A collection of used and unused contained in one album.

A. Markl.—Silver medal.

Greece. This exhibit was in an album, of which the first page was open showing two to three specimens of each value of the first issue, Paris print.

Mrs. Bridson.—Bronze medal.

Portugal. Good single specimen collection of unused and used in nice condition, including 1853, first issue, 5r brown unused and two used copies of the 100r lilac.

1855 : 5r straight hair, three used copies only. None of the 1866-67 issue in the rare lozenge perforation were shown.

1871 : 5r black and 10r yellow, imperforate, unused.

1879 : 10r blue green, two unused and one used specimen.

1880 : 25r gray (No. 52), imperforate, unused.

1882-85 : an imperforate proof of the 25r in green.

The Don Henry, St. Anthony and Vasco da Gama commemorative issues were shown in full sets used on original covers.

Class VIII.—Division C.

Collections of any three European countries with the exception of Holland and specialized collections.

D. M. de Heer.—Silver gilt medal.

Finland, France and Switzerland. In the latter country were included the following good stamps : Double Geneva, used on original cover ; Basle $2\frac{1}{2}$ r ; Zurich 4r ; and 4c, 1849-50 ; all used on originals.

The essay of Basle $2\frac{1}{2}$ r in vermillion, black and green.

The French consisted principally of unused stamps and included a copy of the 30c, 1863-70, used on a balloon post letter.

J. Engel.—Silver medal.

For collections of Great Britain, France and Spain containing mostly used single copies in nice condition.

Great Britain contained the 2s brown and £5 postally used.

Spain included used copies of the 2r of 1851, 1852 and 1853, 2c green on bleuté, 1854, used. Madrid, 1c only. 1874, 4p used and 10p unused, the 10 pesetas of 1876 and 1877-78 both used.

Miss M. Berenbak.—*Bronze medal.*

Germany with States, Great Britain and Spain. Collection of single specimens unused and used mixed, including Lubeck, unused pair of 2s brown, 1859, one being the error 2½; Saxony, 3pf red, used; Wurtemburg, 70kr, fine unused; Mecklenburg Schwerin, the first 4-4sch red, rouletted, used on piece of cover, with the rouletting very plain at bottom. Among the Hamburg was a forgery of the first issue 3s blue and a copy of the 9sch yellow, perf., with forged cancellation. Spain, 2r of 1852 and 1853, fine, used.

A. G. Rinders.—*Bronze medal.*

Belgium, Norway and Denmark; represented by nice used single copies with a good number of shades. The former country included both shades of the 5fr brown, postally used, and a half of the Unpaid 20c ultramarine, 1870, used as 10c.

There were two other small exhibits in this division.

Class IX.—Division A.

Special collections of any three countries of Asia, Africa and Australia with the exception of Dutch Indies.

S. J. Van Den Bergh.—*Silver gilt medal.*

Japan, Hawaii and Victoria.

The Japan consisted of a small collection unused and used without plate numbers.

Hawaii. No first issue were included, and the 1853 issue was represented by unused single copies and one or two used specimens. The numerals, 1859-65 issues, were shown in unused single copies only but the rarer kinds were wanting. All the later issues down to 1891 were shown by an unused single copy, and a vertical pair of all values including the 25c, 50c and 1d. The "Provisional Government" issue was complete in unused singles, including both 12c, but none of the errors were shown.

Victoria. These were a fine lot nearly all used and included:

1850: first issue, four unused copies of the 1d, none really fine.

1854: 2d Queen on throne, reconstructed plates of the three states. Two used copies of the rare 6d orange, 1861-66 (both clipped); 3d claret, 1861-66, two good shades unused. The later issues included a good number of unused, and from two to seven specimens of each kind used.

A small lot of revenues used for postage were included, among them being a number of palpably cleaned ones.

A. Fortin.—*Silver medal.*

Ceylon and Cape of Good Hope. These were the same as shown at Paris last year, but a few fine stamps had been added.

Cape of Good Hope, 1853-64: block of four 1d rose, unused.

1861, wood blocks: six singles and pair of the 1d red, used; six single copies and two pairs of 4d pale blue, used; 4d dark blue used; 1d blue, error of color, used and superb.

De la Rue prints : unused block of four 1d, and unused pairs each 4d, 6d and 1s emerald green.

The other competitors in this class were Mrs. Bridson and Mr. J. Hüpfeld. The former showed small collections of New Zealand, India and Gambia, short of most of the rarities, one of the best things being India first issue 4a, used, superb vertical pair, wide printing showing blue wavy line.

Mr. Hüpfeld showed a small collection of Cape of Good Hope, a very poor lot for a collector possessing such a splendid lot of German States ; the best things being three pairs of 1s yellow-green triangular, and a very fine copy of the 4d deep blue wood block, used on original letter.

[*To be continued.*]

A United States Provisional Stamp.

Mr. H. B. Phillips has recently discovered an interesting variety in the 1851 issue. He has shown us a cover bearing three copies of the three cent stamp and one-third of another copy, used as ten cents. The postmark is "Wrentham, Mass., June 4", but the year is missing, as is usual with letters of that period. The letter was addressed to a gentleman in San Francisco, from whose correspondence Mr. Phillips obtained it. Its antecedents are thus established beyond question.





UNITED STATES.—Mr. Clarence H. Eagle has called our attention to two distinct varieties in the 1c stamp of Jeremiah Curtis & Son, the difference lying in the numerals "1", which are placed outside of the circle containing the central design. The stamps on old paper show a narrow figure, whereas those on watermarked paper all have a broader one.



UNITED STATES.—Mr. W. A. McDonnell has called our attention to a variety in the Postal Telegraph stamp for 1900. It would appear that some time during that year the stamp was re-engraved. The changes are slight but, at the same time, quite noticeable when the two varieties are compared. The principal differences are to be found in the labels bearing the words "Good for one message of twenty words" and the ornaments adjacent to them.

In addition to the changes in engraving there is also a difference in the shade of the stamps, the later one being a much lighter blue.



AUSTRIA.—We copy the following from the *Monthly Journal*:

"*Le C. de T.-P.* describes specimens of the current 5, 10, 20, 25 and 30 kreuzer (this should of course be heller) on paper which, in addition to fragments of silk in its substance, has on the back a series of parallel bars, about 2mm. wide and 8mm. apart, printed apparently in a slightly yellowish varnish, but more conspicuous by their shiny surface than by their color. These bars run diagonally, and three show on each stamp."



CHILE.—The *Monthly Journal* has received specimens of the current issue of Chile, 1, 2 and 5c, recut, and describes the nature of such retouching. This is most noticeable above and behind the head of Columbus, the whole background of the head being now composed of crossed lines, almost as heavy as those in front of the profile. There are also additional lines about the face, especially near the eye.



CHINA.—A correspondent in Hankow informs us that he has the 2c of the 1898 issue in a vertical pair, imperforate between.



ANTIOQUIA.—A correspondent has shown us a 2½c Too Late stamp cut in half vertically and used as a 1c, on the original cover.



FRANCE.—In our last number we spoke of two types of certain values of the current issue, and expressed the opinion that they were first printed from plates in which the numerals of value constituted a part of the plate, but that afterwards one plate was used for all the values and the numerals separately printed in. Mr. M. H. Lombard, who is well-known as an authority on French stamps, expresses a contrary opinion to ours, and, after examining the

stamps and considering the arguments presented, we have decided that Mr. Lombard is right,—that in the later printings the numerals formed a part of the plate.

Mr. Lombard writes us further that he has not found any varieties in the numerals, except in the case of the figure "1" of the 10c. In the earliest printings the bottom stroke of this figure was straight, while in the second printings the stroke is curved. Mr. Lombard has only seen the 10, 20, 25 and 30c in the first type, which also has been our experience.

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NEW ZEALAND.—A correspondent of *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* has an entire sheet of the current 3 pence, local print, imperforate vertically.

* * * * *

NEW ZEALAND.—Mr Fred Hagen has shown the *Australian Philatelist* a sheet of the current 6p rose with double impression. The two printings are said to be very distinct, the words "NEW ZEALAND" in the first impression falling to about the center of the design of the second. It is said that only one sheet was issued in this style.

* * * * *

PERU.—*L'Ami des Timbres* is informed that the Peruvian government has appropriated the necessary funds for the printing of two millions of postage stamps of 5c blue, with the bust of Pizarro; five hundred thousand 10c lake, of the same design, and three hundred thousand 22c green, with the figure of Liberty.

* * * * *

SERVIA.—The *Monthly Journal* has seen a horizontal strip of three of the 20 paras unpaid letter stamp, the middle stamp of which is upside down, thus forming a tête bêche.

* * * * *

SEYCHELLES.—We copy the following from the *Monthly Journal*:

"A correspondent shows us a variety of the 36c on 45c in which the letter "T" of "CENTS" is considerably shorter than the other letters, and having a short top line also, may possibly belong to another fount. The "E" is likewise a little too short, but this seems to be a damaged type. The specimen is postmarked "S P 2 00" but as almost all these stamps were bought up by a speculator some may have been put through the post as late as that."

* * * * *

TOBAGO.—The *London Philatelist* states that Messrs. Bright & Son have been informed by the Crown Agents for the Colonies that the obsolete stamps which were advertised for sale in January, 1900, have been destroyed. Our contemporary understands that this applies only to the unsold ½d, 2½d and 1sh values.

* * * * *

VENEZUELA.—A correspondent has shown us the 10c, surcharged "RESELLADO CASTRO," with the surcharge inverted.



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VENEZUELA.—A correspondent has shown us the 10c, surcharged "RESELLADO CASTRO," with the surcharge inverted.



BAHAMAS.—The *London Philatelist* has received from a correspondent a specimen of the 1 shilling green of 1863-75, watermarked Crown and C. C., perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$ at bottom and 14 at sides. Our catalogue has for some time shown the 1 shilling of Bermuda with a similar perforation, and this new discovery would tend to show that the compound perforating machine must have been in use to quite a considerable extent.

Adhesive stamp.

Watermarked Crown and C. C.

Perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$ x 14.

1sh green

BRITISH GUIANA.—As foreshadowed in our August number, the 2c has now appeared in new colors.

Adhesive stamp.

Watermarked Crown and C. A.

Perf. 14.

2c brown and black on red

BULGARIA.—In our last number we mentioned having seen the 5s unpaid letter stamp of this country watermarked with portions of letters, but refrained from chronicling the stamp until we should have further information. We have now received a sheet of the stamps and find that the watermark covers portions of a block of sixty stamps (ten rows of six). The watermark consists of a lion rampant on a vertically lined shield, surmounted by a crown; above and below the shield are Bulgarian words, which we understand are equivalent to GOVERNMENT OF BULGARIA. On

looking through our stock we find, among a lot of stamps purchased in 1898, a number of copies with the watermark, which would indicate that this is not by any means a recent issue. However, we do not recall any mention of it by our contemporaries.

Unpaid letter stamp.

Watermarked.

Perforated.

5s orange

ANTIOQUIA.—We have just received from a correspondent two new typeset provisional stamps, one for regular postage and the other a Too Late stamp. Both stamps appear to be set up in blocks of four varieties, and the latter is printed on laid paper.

Adhesive stamp.

Provisional issue.

Perforated.

1c carmine (four varieties)

Too Late stamp.

Provisional issue.

White laid paper.

Perforated.

2½c violet (four varieties)

CRETE.—On several occasions we have referred to reports in our contemporaries of the appearance of stamps of the current issue without surcharge, but we have thought it best not to chronicle them until we had evidence that they were actually in issue. We have now received from a correspondent four values in the old colors, but without surcharge. There are two slight shades of the one drachma.

Adhesive stamps.

Perforated.

25c blue
1dr gray violet
2dr brown
5dr green and black

4c carmine and black
5c blue and black
6c brown red and black
8c red and black
12c orange and black
18c olive bistre and black
24c lilac and blue

French Offices in China.—The *Collectionneur de Timbres Poste* states that French unpaid letter stamps have been surcharged for use in these offices.

Unpaid letter stamps.

Perforated.

Red surcharge.
5c light blue
10c chocolate
15c light green
Black surcharge.
30c carmine
50c lilac

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.—In our July number we announced the surcharging of a new lot of United States stamps for use in this colony. We understand that the stamps have now been placed in issue.

We therefore have to add the following to our chronicle:

Adhesive stamps.

Watermarked U. S. P. S.

Perf. 12.

Surcharged "PHILIPPINES."

4c rose brown
6c brownish lake
8c puce
\$1 black
\$2 sapphire
\$5 dark green

Unpaid letter stamp.

3c deep claret

GREAT BRITAIN.—The *Monthly Journal* has received the current 6p stamp, surcharged "I. R. OFFICIAL."

Official stamp.

Watermarked Crown.

Perf. 14.

Surcharged "I. R. OFFICIAL."
6p violet on rose

SEYCHELLES.—In our last number we chronicled the issue of a 3c on 36c, and the *Stamp Collector's Fortnightly* now announces the appearance of two additional provisionals, namely, a 3c on 16c and a 6c on 8c.

Adhesive stamps.

Provisional issue.

Watermarked Crown and C. A.

Perf. 14.

3c on 16c orange brown and ultramarine
6c on 8c brown violet and blue

Bhore.—*L'Echo de la Timbrologie* has received from Mr. Forbin a $\frac{1}{2}$ anna stamp in an entirely new type, showing the portrait of the Rajah. Our contemporary states that the portraiture as well as the printing is pitiable.

Adhesive stamp.

2½a red

LABUAN.—*Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* states that the current set of Unpaid letter stamps of North Borneo has been surcharged for use in Labuan.

Unpaid letter stamps.

Perforated.

2c green and black
3c bistre and black

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—Mr. Fred Hagen has sent us the current 1 and 2 shilling stamps with the watermark Crown and SA, letters wide apart.

Adhesive stamps.

Watermarked Crown and SA.

Perforated.

1sh dark brown

2sh carmine

Selangor. —Another provisional is announced for this state. The 5c lilac and olive has been surcharged in black "ONE CENT," with a bar above.

Adhesive stamp.

Watermarked Crown and C. A.

Perf, 14.

Black surcharge.

1c on 5c lilac and olive

TRANSVAAL. —We have received from a correspondent a new provisional for this country, made by surcharging the 2p of the South African Republic with "E. R. I." and new value.

Adhesive stamp.

Provisional issue.

Perforated.

Black surcharge.

½p on 2p brown and green

URUGUAY. —We have just received a 5c envelope in the current type with the stamp printed in blue.

Envelope.

Size 151x90mm.

5c blue, white paper

The Collectors Club,

351 FOURTH AVENUE,

NEW YORK.

The seventieth meeting of the Board of Governors was held at the Club House on Monday evening, September 9, 1901.

Present: Messrs. Andreini, Luff, Scott and Perrin.

In the absence of the President, the Vice-President called the meeting to order at 8.30 P. M.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

A number of communications were read by the Secretary.

The Treasurer's report showing a cash balance in bank of \$279.98, exclusive of \$1000 bond, was approved as read.

The Treasurer reported having transferred the share of stock formerly belonging to Mr. Pitman to Mr. Carpenter.

House Committee report read.

Adjourned at 9.45 P. M.

ALBERT PERRIN, *Secretary.*

